(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 140 267 A

(43) Application published 28 Nov 1984

(21) Application No 8314731

(22) Date of filing 27 May 1983

(51) INT CL³
A01K 31/12 31/07

(52) Domestic classification
A1M AP

(56) Documents cited
None

(58) Field of search
A1M

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(54) Bird cage accessory

(57) A bird cage accessory comprises a substantially flat platform (11) from whose bottom surface there projects two elongate bars (21,22) which sit the platform horizontally across the curved top of a bird cage. A through-slot (13) in the central region of the platform allows the platform to straddle the handle from which the cage is hung. In use, and with the platform in position, the sides of the slot co-operate with the sides of the cage handle to resist the natural tendency of the platform to slide one way or the other from its horizontal attitude. The platform can then be used as a perch, outside the cage, by the bird.

Preferably the amount by which the bars project from the bottom of the platform is adjustable. Advantageously a detachable climbing perch or mirror or other object of play fits into sockets (17) and/or projections on the top surface of the platform. Such sockets and/or projections may be formed in posts (16) which project from the bottom surface of the platform and to which the platform supporting bars are connected.

FIGURE 1

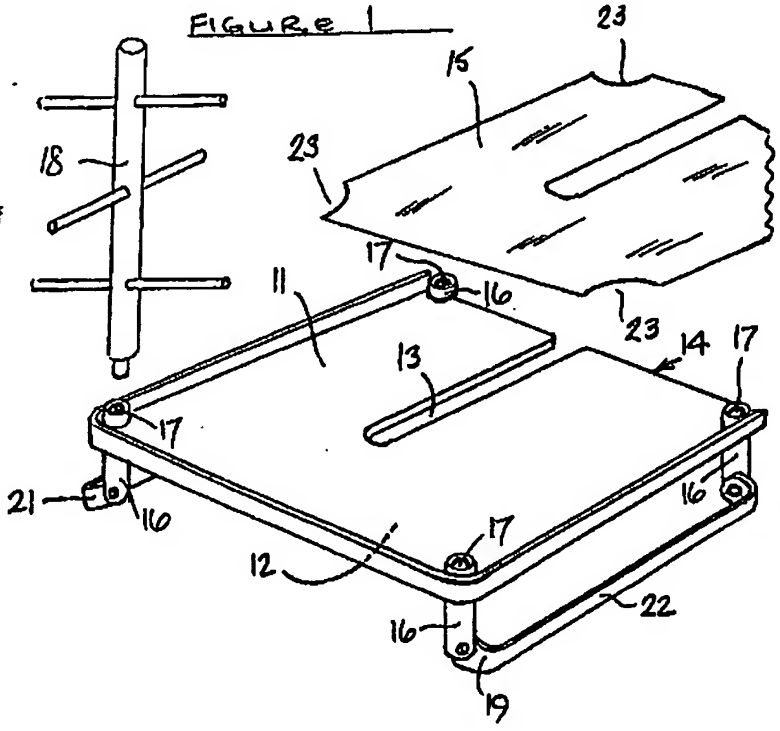

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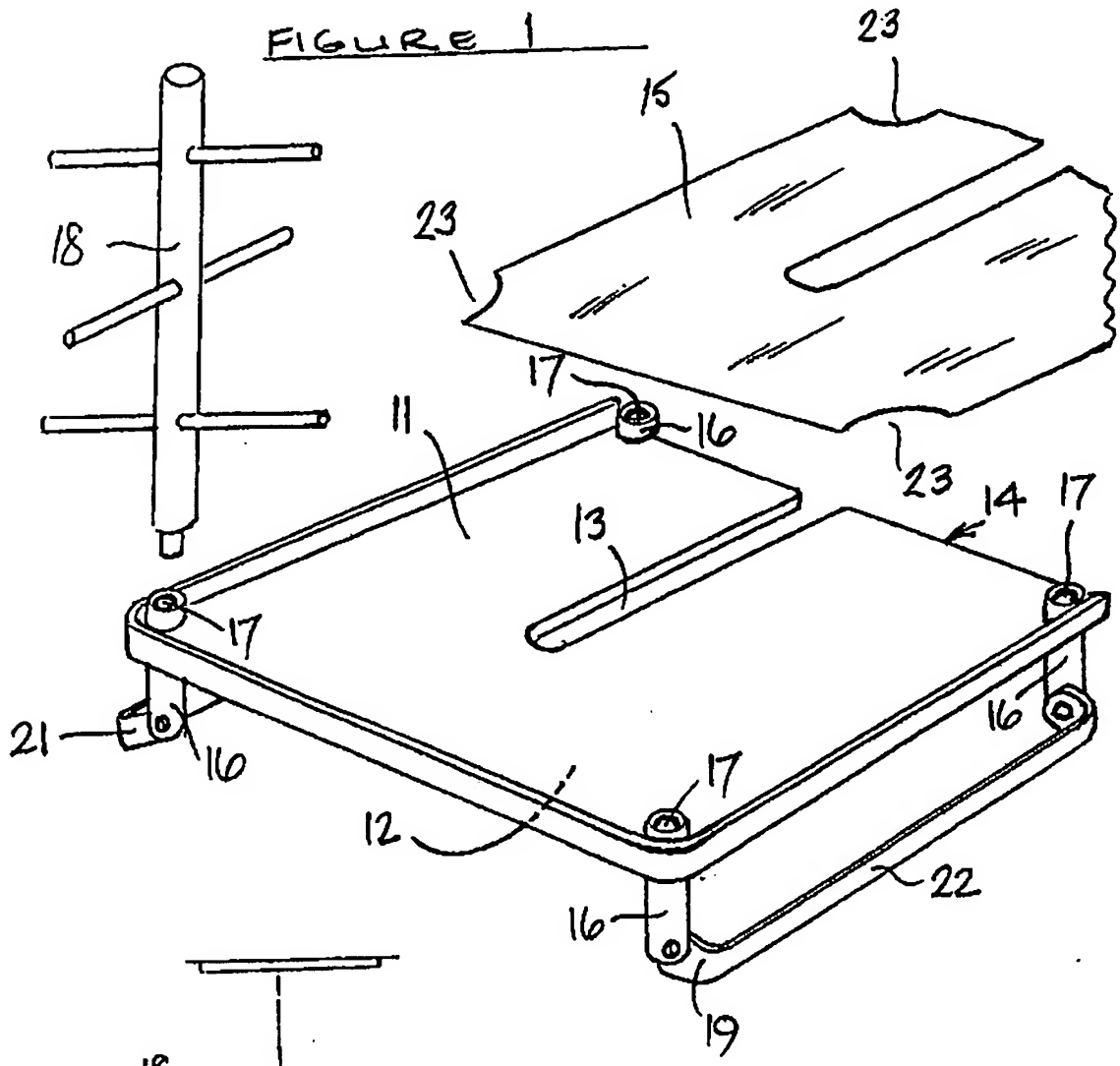
FIGURE 1



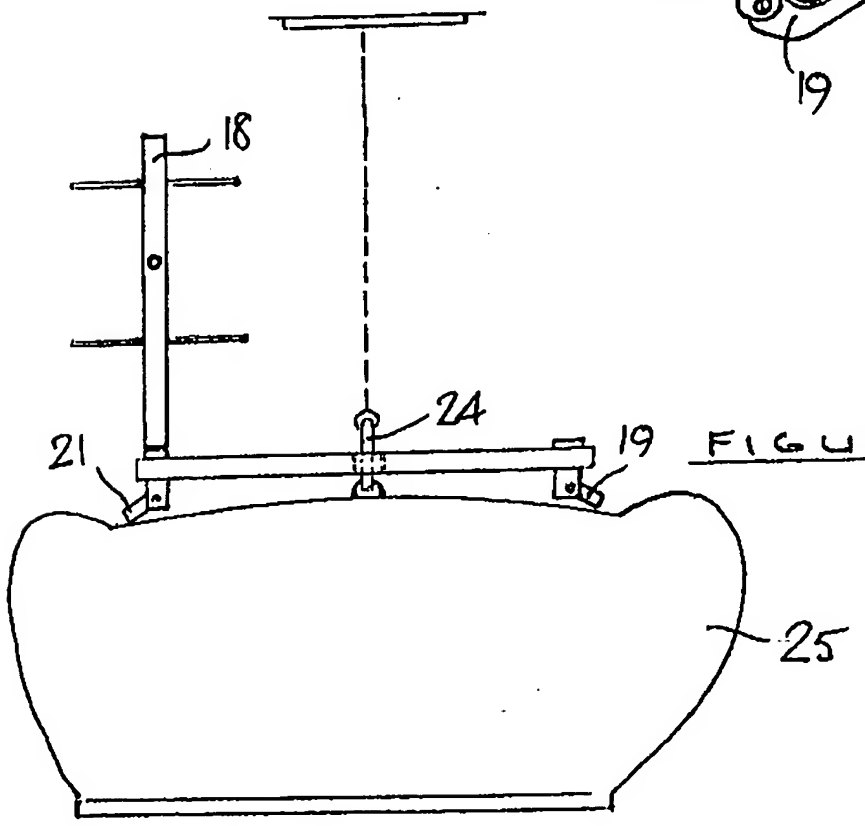


FIGURE 2

SPECIFICATION

Bird cage accessory

The invention relates to bird cage accessories.

According t the broadest aspect f the invention, a substantially flat platform has two elongate bars which are spaced apart across its bottom surface and which project sufficiently far from that surface to sit the platform horizontally across the curved top of a bird cage; and a through slot in the central region of the platform allows the platform to straddle the handle from which the cage is hung.

In use, and with the platform in position, the sides of the slot co-operate with the sides of the cage handle to resist the natural tendency of the platform to slide one way or the other from its horizontal attitude. The platform can then be used as a perch, outside the cage, by the bird.

Preferably the slot is just wide enough to accommodate the cage handle, so that the co-operating action between the slot and the handle is of maximum efficiency.

The slot may run from the central region of the platform to open on to an edge of the platform. The platform can then be slid into place around the cage handle without the handle having to be disconnected from its hanging strap in order to fit the platform over it.

Preferably the amount by which the bars project from the bottom of the platform is adjustable, so that the platform can sit across cage tops of respectively different curvature and/or can sit at different heights above a given cage top.

The means of adjusting the projecting height of the bars may comprise frictionally loaded pivots at each opposite end of each bar, as such pivots are readily adjustable and require no positive locking mechanism to retain them in any selected position of adjustment.

Sockets and/or projections may be provided on the top surface of the platform to receive a detachable climbing perch or mirror or other object of play for the bird using the platform. The sockets and/or projections may be formed in posts which project from the bottom surface of the platform and to which the platform supporting bars are connected. Such a constructions lends ridigity to the platf rm whilst providing an efficient means of attachment for th necessary supporting bars. It also lends itself readily to incorporating frictionally loaded pivots for the bars as previously outlined.

The top surface of the platf rm c uld be lipped around its edge region, to st p dirt being scattered fr m it and/or to retain a sand sheet r oth r renewable covering n the platform. If part of the edge regi n of th platform were to be left unlipped, then the sheet r other renewable covering could be slipped into and ut of place using the remaining lipp d edge regions as a guid .

Advantageously, the undersides of the platform supporting bars are faced with rubber or another slip resistant material to give the platform better grip and to resist even th slight amount of free play existing between the slot and the cage handle. The bottom surface of the platform itself may similarly be treated with slip resistant material if it is intended that the platform bears against the top of the cage.

The platform, and optionally the bars themselves, may be produced in a plastics material which can be self-coloured and, once the initial moulds have been made, can be produced readily and cheaply by known methods.

One bird cage accessory embodying the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings. It will now be described with reference to those drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows the platform in "exploded" perspective; and

Figure 2 shows the platform in side elevation and in position on a bird cage.

A substantially flat rectangular platform has a top surface 11 and a bottom surface 12. The platform is of uniform thickness throughout. Its bottom surface has affixed to it a sheet of ribbed rubber, whilst its top surface is initially uncovered.

A slot 13 runs from the central region of the platform to open on to one edge thereof. The slot 13 is a through-slot, and is parallel-sided. It is just slightly wider than the width of a bird cage handle round which the platform is intended to fit.

The edge 14 of the platform, on to which the slot 13 opens, is unlipped. The three remaining edges of the rectangular platform are all peripherally lipped. A sand sheet 15 is so sized and shaped that it slides over the platform top surface 11 and is accommodated within the lipped periphery of the platform. As Fig. 1 shows, the sheet 15 is cut away so as not to cover the slot 13.

Corner posts 16 project from the bottom surface 12 of the platform, and extend through the platform to rise from the top surface 11. The portions of these posts which project from the top surface 11 are recessed, to form sockets 17, each of which can receive a climbing perch 18 r other similarly co-operating object of play f r th bird using the platf rm.

The regions of the posts 16 which pr ject from the bottom surfac 12 of the platform are drilled t receiv respective pivots proj cting from each opposite end of two U-shaped bars 19, 21. These pivots are a frictionally tight fit in the posts 16, so that wh n the bars 19, 21 are ri ntated int a selected position then the pivots will resist any tendency of the

bars to rotat out of that position.

Ribbed rubber facings 22 are fixed to th outward facing surfaces of each of the bars 19, 21, and the corners f th renewabl sand sheet 15 are cut away as indicated at 23 to accommodate the corner posts 16 where they project from the top surface 11 of the platform.

In use, as Fig. 2 shows, the platform straddles the handle 24 of a curved-top bird cage 25; and the bars 21, 22 sit the platform horizontally across the top of the cage and space the platform from the cage top. The bird, temporarily freed from the cage, can use the platform and the perch 18 as an area of play. To vary the height of the platform above the cage top, the bars 19, 21 can be pivoted about the posts 16.

The platform described and illustrated herein would sit horizontally across the domed top of a circular cylindrical cage, as an alternative to the cage 25 illustrated.

The platform, the corner posts, the supporting bars and/or the climbing perch 18 could all be made in self-coloured injection moulded plastics material. The perch 18 could be coloured to contrast pleasingly with the platform itself. The corner posts 16 could meet the platform outside its peripheral lip, to avoid the need to cut away the corner regions 23 of the replaceable sand sheet 15. Other modifications within the broad aspect of the invention will occur to the intended skilled reader of this specification.

CLAIMS

1. A bird cage accessory comprising a substantially flat platform having two elongate bars spaced apart across its bottom surface, the bars projecting sufficiently far from that surface to sit the platform (in use) horizontally across the curved top of a bird cage, and with a through-slot in the central region of the platform, the slot being wide enough to allow the platform (in use) to straddle the handle from which the cage is hung.

2. An accessory according to claim 1 and in which the slot runs from the central region of the platform to open onto an edge of the platform.

4. An accessory according to claim 1 or claim 2 and in which the amount by which the bars project from the bottom of the platform in use is adjustable.

4. An accessory according to claim 3 and in which the means for adjusting the projecting height of the bars comprises fricti nally loaded pivots at each opposite end of each bar.

5. An accessory according to any of the preceding claims and in which sockets and/or projections are provided on the top surface of the platform to receive a detachable bject of play.

6. An accessory according to any of the preceding claims and in which the top surface f the platform is lipped around its edge region.

7. An accessory according to claim 6 and in which part f the edge region is l ft unlipped so that a sheet or other renewable covering can be slipped into and out of place on the platform using the remaining lipped edge regions as a guide.

8. An accessory according to any of the preceding claims and in which the undersides of the platform-supporting bars are faced with slip resistant material.

9. An accessory according to any of the preceding claims and in which the bottom surface of the platform is treated with slip resistant material.

10. A bird cage accessory substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Printed in the United Kingdom for
Her Majesty's Stationary Office, Dd 8818935, 1984, 4235.
Published at The Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings,
London, WC2A 1AY, from which copies may be obtained.